CLAIMS

1. A method for determining an interruption of a communication connection between a domestic appliance connected in a local area network to which further domestic appliances are connected, to a bus line arrangement comprising a bus line controller, and the relevant bus line controller to which information about its respective appliance status is transmitted by the relevant domestic appliance,
and for the continuation of such transmissions on re-establishing the communication connection after eliminating the interruption,
wherein the relevant domestic appliance is allocated a unique address for its identification in the local area network, characterised in that
when said information is transmitted merely in the form of alteration information from said one domestic appliance (HG1 to HGn) on its respective appliance status to the bus line controller (BM), a certain fixed criterion of said domestic appliance (HG1 to HGn) is repeatedly requested over time by the bus line controller (BM) whereupon if the communication connection exists with the relevant domestic appliance (HG1 to HGn), a reply signal is transmitted therefrom to the bus line controller (BM),
the absence of such a reply signal is considered to be an interruption of the communication connection with the relevant domestic appliance (HG1 to HGn), whereupon a search operation for the relevant domestic appliance (HG1 to HGn) wherein a general interrogation signal (BS) is transmitted is carried out by the bus line controller (BM) until a reply signal is obtained from said appliance again,

and then information corresponding to the then valid current status of the relevant domestic appliance (HG1 to HGn) is transmitted to the bus line controller (BM).

2. The method according to claim 1, characterised in that the specific fixed criterion of said domestic appliance (HG1 to HGn) is requested cyclically.

3. The method according to claim 1 or claim 2, characterised in that the respective appliance principal status is requested as the specific fixed criterion of said domestic appliance (HG1 to HGn).

4. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterised in that said search operation is carried out cyclically.

5. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, characterised in that the current status of said domestic appliance (HG1 to HGn) is only transmitted to the bus line controller (BM) after the relevant domestic appliance (HG1 to HGn) has been allocated a unique address at this time by a registration procedure in the local area network (LAN).

6. A device for determining for determining an interruption of a communication connection between a domestic appliance connected in a local area network to which further domestic appliances are connected, to a bus line arrangement comprising a bus line controller, and the relevant bus line controller to which information about its respective appliance status is transmitted by the relevant domestic appliance,

and for the continuation of such transmissions on re-establishing the communication connection after eliminating the interruption,
wherein the relevant domestic appliance is allocated a unique address for its identification in the local area network, characterised in that
when said information is transmitted merely in the form of alteration information from said one domestic appliance (HG1 to HGn) on its respective appliance status to the bus line controller (BM), the bus line controller (BM) repeatedly requests over time a certain fixed criterion of said domestic appliance (HG1 to HGn),
said bus line controller (BM) being configured such that in the presence of a communication connection to the relevant domestic appliance (HG1 to HGn), it receives a reply signal from said appliance in each case,
said bus line controller (BM) comprises an evaluation device which is configured such that, in the absence of a reply signal, it provides a message signal indicating an interruption of the communication connection to the relevant domestic appliance (HG1 to HGn)
and the bus line controller (BM) is further constructed so that in response to said message signal, it carries out a search operation for the relevant domestic appliance (HG1 to HGn) wherein a general interrogation signal (BS) is transmitted until a reply signal is obtained from said appliance again, and said bus line controller (BM) is further constructed such that it then allows information corresponding to the then valid current appliance status to be received.

7. The device according to claim 6, characterised in that the bus line controller (BM) is a controller which

cyclically requests said certain fixed criterion of the relevant domestic appliance (HG1 to HGn).

8. The device according to claim 6 or claim 7, characterised in that said bus line controller (BM) is a controller which cyclically repeatedly requests the principal status of said domestic appliance (HG1 to HGn).

9. The device according to any one of claims 6 to 8, characterised in that the bus line controller (BM) is a controller which cyclically carries out said search operation.

10. The device according to any one of claims 6 to 9, characterised in that the bus line controller (BM) is designed such that before receiving said current status of the relevant household appliance (HG1 to HGn), it includes this in a registration procedure by which means said relevant domestic appliance (HG1 to HGn) obtains a unique address at this time in the local area network (LAN) by which it can be reached in the local area network (LAN).